

***Remarks***

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 2-13 are pending in the application, with claim 2 being the independent claim. Claim 1 is sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claim 2 is sought to be rewritten in independent form. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

***Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103***

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,041,695 to Harper et al. Applicants have cancelled claim 1; thus, this rejection is moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Applicants thank the Examiner for the prompt indication of allowable matter. On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner noted that claims 2-13 contain allowable subject matter and that these claims would be allowed if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants have rewritten claim 2 in independent form; thus, as rewritten, claim 2 is allowable. Claims 3-13 depend, either directly or indirectly, from an allowable independent claim 2 and are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 2-13 are respectfully requested.

***Information Disclosure Statement***

Applicants filed an information disclosure statement in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98 on February 27, 2004. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the PTO-1449 enclosed with the information disclosure statement, and indicate in the official file wrapper of this patent application that the documents cited on the PTO-1449 have been considered.

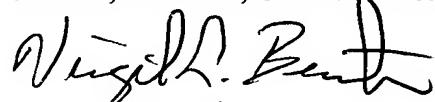
***Conclusion***

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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